

Investment Policy



June 2016





- Whether equity valuations are fairly priced remains one of the biggest questions for investors. On the one hand, multiple expansion due to low interest rates support valuations, but on the other hand earnings momentum is losing steam and speak for flat equity markets at best
- As the room for further interest rates decreases is limited, we perceive the risks of a correction to be larger than those of missing an equity rally

The earnings malaise is widespread





Earnings momentum keeps disappointing not only across developed markets, but also in emerging markets
On the positive side, the earnings base is rather low, particularly for Europe and Emerging Markets, and there is potential for positive surprises

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- Recent data in the US has been rather disappointing. Despite **manufacturing** activity has recently recovered from below 50, which indicates the economy is contracting, the much more important **service part of the economy** has continued decelerating
- Moreover, the latest **Nonfarm Payrolls** number for May was surprisingly low, and casted some doubts on whether the US labor market may have reached a peak





• The change of currency regime in the Chinese Yuan marked the start of the stock market correction

• Since then, **commodity** and **equity** prices have remained **strongly correlated** with the movements in the **Yuan**. However, this **correlation has started to break**, and whilst the Yuan is approaching the lows seen at the beginning of the year, commodities keep on trending up and equity markets stagnate





- The **probability of a Brexit is increasing**, with still a large number of voters undecided. Even if from an economic perspective such an event should be rather inconsequential in the long-run provided it is not conceivable that trade between the UK and the EU will stop the **risks of triggering financial turmoil** in the short-term will be elevated
- Beyond Brexit, the market will increasingly focus on the **US presidential elections**, which now seems will be a tighter than expected race





- Risky asset classes have continued outperforming (with the exception of commodities), whilst safe assets performed slightly negative
- Diversified **hedge fund** strategies continued disappointing in May, whilst other alternative investments like **cat bonds** or **private equity** continued posting a positive performance



	Scenario 1 Global economic slowdown	Scenario 2 Muddling through	Scenario 3 Inflation surprise			
Drivers	 Global economic slowdown led by a hard- landing in China and/ or recession in the US Fed delays rate rises Strong deflationary scenario due to a combination of low growth and structural factors (demographics, low aggregated demand, deleveraging) 	 Chinese authorities stabilize the market and halt economic rebalancing (weaker yuan, higher IP). US, Japan and Europe continue exhibiting low but stable growth Fed rise rates at an accommodative pace Low inflation due to structural factors (demographics, low aggregated demand, deleveraging) 	 Growth concerns dissipate, with economic activity accelerating in Europe and Japan Inflation in US unexpectedly increases The Fed is behind the curve and is forced to rise rates aggressively 			
Market impact	 Correction in credit due to a rise in defaults and a widening of corporate spreads Correction in equities due to lower projected earnings, though low rates will offer support Sovereign and IG credit to profit due to flight to quality and the continuation of an ultra-loose monetary policy globally USD neutral to weak as flight to quality is counterbalanced by low interest rates Commodities to remain depressed 	 Equities recover moderately, particularly in Europe Credit spreads remain stable as the credit cycle is further elongated Sovereigns suffer as monetary policy is progressively normalized USD appreciate moderately due to higher interest rate differentials Commodities remain weak in short term, but rebound in long-term as supply and demand balance out 	 Correction in equities due to higher rates. Impact will be mitigated if higher inflation is the consequence of an acceleration in growth Sovereign and IG bonds will face steep losses due to higher rates, particularly if long-term inflation expectations rise Corporate credit will correct moderately if inflation comes together with higher growth The USD will appreciate, particularly against those currencies facing deflation Commodities will gain from higher inflation 			
Probability	35%	35%	30%			
Short-term catalyzers QE Ramp up (EU, Japan, China?), Fed pauses, macro-data (particularly in China) showing resilience						
Other risks Commodity prices lead to political destabilization (Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, etc.), US elections, Greece, Terrorism, Brexit						



• We remain cautious in **fixed income** favoring **short-medium** maturities due to a very unattractive combination of risk and return. We **no longer favor credit exposure** as we think the macroeconomic picture has deteriorated significantly. On the other hand, **high quality bonds** – particularly **corporate investment grade** – have turned attractive following the widening in spreads, and **Treasury bonds** can benefit from a slowdown in growth. We have also added a position in inflation-linked US Treasury bonds (**TIPS**) to get partial protection against an unexpected bout of inflation as a consequence of the extremely accommodative monetary conditions

• The strong recovery has brought equity valuations back at a point where they remain supported by low interest rates. Broadly speaking, we think that prospects for corporate earnings cannot be positive in an environment of lackluster economic growth and a potential normalization of interest rates poses a risk of returning to lower valuation multiples. As a consequence, we have hedged our equity exposure. From a relative valuation perspective, we favor European equities, high-dividend stocks and growth stocks

• Alternative investments offer a much needed source of diversification and (partially) uncorrelated returns. We recommend allocating a significant part of the portfolio to Multi-Strategy Hedge-Funds, Private Equity, Cat Bonds, Commodities and derivative strategies (covered-calls)

• A larger than usual cash allocation is advisable as the opportunity cost of holding cash has decreased dramatically, and it offers flexibility to enter the market in an opportunistic manner



Cash	
5% 9%	 In the current interest rate environment the opportunity cost of holding cash has significantly decreased, hence, waiting for good investment opportunities is a sensible investment strategy Nonetheless, we have reduced the allocation to enhanced cash strategies as we have taken a more conservative stance on credit and allocated to short-term Treasuries
Fixed Income	
43% 46%	High-quality fixed income in USD currently offers a better combination of risk and return since credit spreads have widened. Treasuries can benefit from a slowdown in growth, whilst TIPS offer protection against an unexpected bout of inflation
	We avoid high-yield and emerging markets in the light of the bleak global economic outlook
Equity	
16% (Fully hedged)	• The strong recovery has brought valuations back at a point where they remain supported by low interest rates. Low economic growth and a potential normalization of interest rates pose a risk of returning to lower valuation multiples. As a consequence, we have hedged our equity exposure
	In relative terms, Europe looks still more attractive than US and Asia
Commodities	
4%	• The sell-of in commodities can no longer be solely explained due to an oversupply in the market, and needs to be reflecting certain expectations of a deceleration in global economic activity
3%	Despite we think that the price decline has been too pronounced and current levels may be a good

Despite we think that the price decline has been too pronounced and current levels may be a good entry point, we prefer to cut exposure to mitigate downside risks in case we are proved to be wrong

Alternative investments





	Cash	• Cash	3%	
Cash	Money market	Mora Money Market	3%	9%
	Margin account	Mini-Short S&P	3%	
	US Treasuries	• iShares Treasury Bond 1-3yr	8%	
		• iShares Treasury Bond 3-7yr	6%	
Fixed Income	Short-Term Corporate Bonds	SPDR Barclays 0-3Y Corporate Bond	8%	46%
Fixed income	Short-Term Corporate Bonds	 iShares USD Short Duration Corporate Bond 	8%	
	US TIPS	• iShares \$ TIPS	7%	
	High Yield US	Muzinich Short Duration High Yield	3%	
	High Yield Absolute Return	 Muzinich Long/Short Credit Yield 	3%	
	Convertible Bonds	 Ellipsis European Convertible Fund 	3%	
	Growth	Wellington Global Quality Growth Portfolio	3%	⊲ 1 6 %
	Europe	THEAM Quant Equity Europe Income	3%	
Equity	Volatility	Reverse Convertibles on Blue Chips	6%	
	High Dividend Yield	Pictet High-Dividend Selection	4%	
Commodities	Diversified	Investec Global Natural Resources	3%	3%
	Multi-Strategy	EDR Prifund Alpha Uncorrelated	4%	26%
	Multi-Strategy	Amura Absolute Return	4%	
Alternative	Relative Value	Areca Value Discovery	4%	
Investments	Multi-Strategy	Lyxor AQR Systematic Total Return	3%	
	CTA, Diversified	Lyxor Winton Fund	3%	
	Cat Bonds	Plenum CAT Bond Fund	4%	
	Private Equity	Partners Group Global Value	4%	

MWM Investment Profiles









MWM Model Portfolio – Fixed Income Evolution





MWM Model Portfolio – VaR Evolution





• Since August's correction, we have further taken out risk from the portfolio; a process continued this year by further reducing exposure to credit (High Yield and Emerging Markets) and increasing the allocation to US Treasuries

• The short position on the S&P 500 future is not reflected in the VaR figure, but it would reduce it to low single-digits

MWM Model Portfolio – Ytd performance (Net)





- Total Return (Ytd1): 0.35% vs. 4.29% Benchmark2
- Standard Deviation (Ytd1): 2.70% vs. 5.97% Benchmark2
- Downside Risk (Ytd1): 2.01% vs. 4.06% Benchmark2
- Var 95% (Ytd1): -0.32% vs. -0.53% Benchmark2

¹ As of June 3, 2016

² Benchmark = 5% Fed Funds + 43% JPM Global Aggregate Bond Index + 38% MSCI World + 4% S&P GSCI + 10% HFRI FoHF

MWM Model Portfolio - Historical performance (1)





- Total Return (1 year¹): -4.58% vs. 0.28% Benchmark²
- Total Return (3 year¹): 2.79% vs. 9.69% Benchmark²
- Total Return (Since Jan 12¹): 17.29% vs. 22.06% Benchmark²

² Benchmark = 5% Fed Funds + 43% JPM Global Aggregate Bond Index + 38% MSCI World + 4% S&P GSCI + 10% HFRI FoHF

• Var 95% (1 day¹): -0.42% vs. -0.56% Benchmark²

Standard Deviation (1 year¹): 3.64% vs. 5.78% Benchmark²
Downside Risk (1 year¹): 2.78% vs. 4.04% Benchmark²
Sharpe Ratio (1 year¹): -1.28% vs. 0.05% Benchmark²

² Benchmark = 5% Fed Funds + 43% JPM Global Aggregate Bond Index + 38% MSCI World + 4% S&P GSCI + 10% HFRI FoHF





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